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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /112 W
---------- 007848
R 130805Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9810
INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SPINOLA SAYS "NO" TO EXTREMISTS

REF: LISBON 2285

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SPINOLA WHILE ON ROAD VISITING MILITARY UNITS IN METROPOLE HAS CLEARLY SAID "NO" TO EXTREMISTS GROUPS WHILE WARNING MILITARY AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY EXTREMISTS TO USE THEM FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTINUING A SERIES OF VISITS TO KEY REGIONAL MILITARY UNITS IN THE METROPOLE, PRESIDENT SPINOLA VISITED EVORA JUNE 6 AND OTA AIR BASE NO. 2 ON JUNE 10. AS IN EARLIER VISITS (REF A) SPINOLA CONTINUED TO DEVELOP IN HIS PUBLIC ADDRESSES TWIN THESIS (A) THAT SOCIAL JUSTICE ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH CREATION OF GREATER NATIONAL WEALTH, WHICH MEANS POPULACE MUST MAINTAIN ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY; (B) THAT ARMED FORCES AND PRESIDENT WILL NOT ALLOW EXTREMISTS TO BRING ANOTHER DICTATORSHIP TO PORTUGAL.
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2. LATTER THEME ESPECIALLY DEVELOPED IN VISIT TO EVORA. SPINOLA TOLD LARGE CROWD ASSEMBLED IN TOWN SQUARE THAT INASMUCH AS BULK OF POPULACE DEPOLITICIZED AND HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO FORMULATE THEIR POLITICAL OPINION, IT WAS HIS DUTY AS PRESIDENT TO WARN THEM OF DANGER OF "EXTREMIST CURRENTS" AWASH IN NATION. EXTREMISTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RESTORE DICTATORSHIP TO PORTUGAL, AND PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE FOLLED BY THEIR EMOTIONAL RHETORIC. HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN SUCH EXTREMISTS LETTERS THREATENING HIS LIFE, HIS RESPONSE TO WHICH WAS TO ASK WHAT BETTER ASPIRATION COULD ANY PORTUGUESE HAVE THAN TO DIE FOR THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM.

3. TRUE LIBERTY COMES NOT FROM EMOTIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS OR FROM ACCLAIMING NATION'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS, SPINOLA SAID, BUT RESULTS WHEN PEOPLE SERENELY AND FREELY ARE ALLOWED TO EXPRESS THEIR WILL THROUGH VOTING PROCESS. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED THAT HE RESPECTS POLITICAL GROUPS AS SOURCES OF OPINION AND POLITICIZATION, "NOT AS PRESSURE GROUPS AGAINST THE PEOPLE."

4. SIMILAR WARNING VOICED IN OTA VISIT ON OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF MILITARY AWARDS TO NUMBER OF OFFICERS. SPINOLA TOLD ASSEMBLED TROOPS TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD ATTEMPT INVOLVE ARMED FORCES IN POLITICS TO BENEFIT OF "POLITICAL INTERESTS." HE ALSO SAID DUTY OF ARMED FORCES AND PRESIDENT IS TO "SPEAK OUT CLEARLY SO THAT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ARE NOT BETRAYED."

5. COMMENT: SPINOLA'S CONCERN REGARDING POLITICIZATION OF ARMED FORCES BY EXTREMISTS IS GENUINE. PCP, MOST FAR-LEFT GROUPS, AND RECENTLY CREATED "TWENTY-FIFTH OF APRIL CENTERS" (HEADED BY FORMER FPLN MARXIST LEADERS MANUEL ALEGRE AND FERNANDO PITEIRA SANTOS) HAVE SET HIG PRIORITY ON INFILTRATION OF MILITARY, PARTICULARLY OF LEADERS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (DEGREE OF SUCCESS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE AT MOMENT). THEY APPARENTLY FEEL "DEMOCRATIZED" ARMED FORCES ESSENTIAL IF TRUE SOCIAL REVOLUTION IS TO
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OCCUR ON HEELS OF POLITICAL-INSTITUTIONAL OVERTHROW.

6. SPINOLA'S CHOICE OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AS OBJECTS OF HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISITS SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT, TOGETHER WITH RECENTLY-DECREED PAY RAISES FOR ENLISTED MEN (LOWEST RANKS GETTING 800 PCT INCREASE FROM JUST OVER $1.00 TO $10.00 PER MONTH-REPORTED SEPARATELY) ARE EFFORTS TO ENSURE PERSONAL LOYALTY TO

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HIM OF HIS PRINCIPAL CONSTITUENCY AND ULTIMATE SOURCE
OF POWER, THE MILITARY. THROUGH THE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC
VISIBILITY GAINED BY THE VISITS AND THE APPEAL FOR
SYMPATHY IN THE MENTION OF THE THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE,
SPINOLA IS CLEARLY SEEKING ENHANCE HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY
AMONG BOTH TROOPS AND CITIZENRY. HIS WARNINGS AGAINST
EXTREMES REPRESENT GENTLE TOUCHES ON THE BRAKES TO
REMIND THAT COUNTRY THAT HE IS IN CHARGE AND HAS THE
MILITARY BACKING TO SUPPORT HIM. SCOTT

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